

**PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA**

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES  
(HANSARD)**

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

**FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT**

**FIRST SESSION**

**WRITTEN ADJOURNMENT RESPONSES**

**22 and 23 November 2016**

**(Extract from book 18)**

Internet: [www.parliament.vic.gov.au/downloadhansard](http://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/downloadhansard)

By authority of the Victorian Government Printer



# HANSARD<sup>150</sup>



1866–2016

Following a select committee investigation, Victorian Hansard was conceived when the following amended motion was passed by the Legislative Assembly on 23 June 1865:

That in the opinion of this house, provision should be made to secure a more accurate report of the debates in Parliament, in the form of *Hansard*.

The sessional volume for the first sitting period of the Fifth Parliament, from 12 February to 10 April 1866, contains the following preface dated 11 April:

As a preface to the first volume of “Parliamentary Debates” (new series), it is not inappropriate to state that prior to the Fifth Parliament of Victoria the newspapers of the day virtually supplied the only records of the debates of the Legislature.

With the commencement of the Fifth Parliament, however, an independent report was furnished by a special staff of reporters, and issued in weekly parts.

This volume contains the complete reports of the proceedings of both Houses during the past session.

In 2016 the Hansard Unit of the Department of Parliamentary Services continues the work begun 150 years ago of providing an accurate and complete report of the proceedings of both houses of the Victorian Parliament.

## **The Governor**

The Honourable LINDA DESSAU, AM

## **The Lieutenant-Governor**

The Honourable Justice MARILYN WARREN, AC, QC

## **The ministry**

(to 9 November 2016)

Premier .....	The Hon. D. M. Andrews, MP
Deputy Premier, Minister for Education and Minister for Emergency Services .....	The Hon. J. A. Merlino, MP
Treasurer .....	The Hon. T. H. Pallas, MP
Minister for Public Transport and Minister for Major Projects .....	The Hon. J. Allan, MP
Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade .....	The Hon. P. Dalidakis, MLC
Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change, and Minister for Suburban Development .....	The Hon. L. D'Ambrosio, MP
Minister for Roads and Road Safety, and Minister for Ports .....	The Hon. L. A. Donnellan, MP
Minister for Tourism and Major Events, Minister for Sport and Minister for Veterans .....	The Hon. J. H. Eren, MP
Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing, Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Equality and Minister for Creative Industries .....	The Hon. M. P. Foley, MP
Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services .....	The Hon. J. Hennessy, MP
Minister for Training and Skills, Minister for International Education and Minister for Corrections .....	The Hon. S. R. Herbert, MLC
Minister for Local Government, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Minister for Industrial Relations .....	The Hon. N. M. Hutchins, MP
Special Minister of State .....	The Hon. G. Jennings, MLC
Minister for Consumer Affairs, Gaming and Liquor Regulation .....	The Hon. M. Kairouz, MP
Minister for Families and Children, and Minister for Youth Affairs .....	The Hon. J. Mikakos, MLC
Minister for Police and Minister for Water .....	The Hon. L. M. Neville, MP
Minister for Industry and Employment, and Minister for Resources .....	The Hon. W. M. Noonan, MP
Attorney-General and Minister for Racing .....	The Hon. M. P. Pakula, MP
Minister for Agriculture and Minister for Regional Development .....	The Hon. J. L. Pulford, MLC
Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Family Violence .....	The Hon. F. Richardson, MP
Minister for Finance and Minister for Multicultural Affairs .....	The Hon. R. D. Scott, MP
Minister for Planning .....	The Hon. R. W. Wynne, MP
Cabinet Secretary .....	Ms G. A. Tierney, MLC

## **The Governor**

The Honourable LINDA DESSAU, AM

## **The Lieutenant-Governor**

The Honourable Justice MARILYN WARREN, AC, QC

## **The ministry**

(from 10 November 2016)

Premier . . . . .	The Hon. D. M. Andrews, MP
Deputy Premier, Minister for Education and Minister for Emergency Services . . . . .	The Hon. J. A. Merlino, MP
Treasurer . . . . .	The Hon. T. H. Pallas, MP
Minister for Public Transport and Minister for Major Projects . . . . .	The Hon. J. Allan, MP
Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade . . . . .	The Hon. P. Dalidakis, MLC
Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change, and Minister for Suburban Development . . . . .	The Hon. L. D'Ambrosio, MP
Minister for Roads and Road Safety, and Minister for Ports . . . . .	The Hon. L. A. Donnellan, MP
Minister for Tourism and Major Events, Minister for Sport and Minister for Veterans . . . . .	The Hon. J. H. Eren, MP
Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing, Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Equality and Minister for Creative Industries . . . . .	The Hon. M. P. Foley, MP
Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services . . . . .	The Hon. J. Hennessy, MP
Minister for Local Government, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Minister for Industrial Relations . . . . .	The Hon. N. M. Hutchins, MP
Special Minister of State . . . . .	The Hon. G. Jennings, MLC
Minister for Consumer Affairs, Gaming and Liquor Regulation . . . . .	The Hon. M. Kairouz, MP
Minister for Families and Children, and Minister for Youth Affairs . . . . .	The Hon. J. Mikakos, MLC
Minister for Police and Minister for Water . . . . .	The Hon. L. M. Neville, MP
Minister for Industry and Employment, and Minister for Resources . . . . .	The Hon. W. M. Noonan, MP
Attorney-General and Minister for Racing . . . . .	The Hon. M. P. Pakula, MP
Minister for Agriculture and Minister for Regional Development . . . . .	The Hon. J. L. Pulford, MLC
Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Family Violence . . . . .	The Hon. F. Richardson, MP
Minister for Finance and Minister for Multicultural Affairs . . . . .	The Hon. R. D. Scott, MP
Minister for Training and Skills, and Minister for Corrections . . . . .	The Hon. G. A. Tierney, MLC
Minister for Planning . . . . .	The Hon. R. W. Wynne, MP
Cabinet Secretary . . . . .	Ms M. Thomas, MP

### Legislative Council committees

**Privileges Committee** — Ms Hartland, Mr Herbert, Ms Mikakos, Mr O'Donohue, Ms Pulford, Mr Purcell, Mr Rich-Phillips and Ms Wooldridge.

**Procedure Committee** — The President, Dr Carling-Jenkins, Mr Davis, Mr Jennings, Ms Pennicuik, Ms Pulford, Ms Tierney and Ms Wooldridge.

### Legislative Council standing committees

**Standing Committee on the Economy and Infrastructure** — Mr Bourman, #Ms Dunn, Mr Eideh, Mr Elasmr, Mr Finn, Ms Hartland, Mr Leane, Mr Morris and Mr Ondarchie.

**Standing Committee on the Environment and Planning** — #Mr Barber, Ms Bath, #Mr Bourman, Mr Dalla-Riva, Mr Davis, Ms Dunn, Mr Eideh, #Ms Hartland, Mr Melhem, #Mr Purcell, #Mr Ramsay, Ms Shing and Mr Young.

**Standing Committee on Legal and Social Issues** — Ms Fitzherbert, #Ms Hartland, Mr Mulino, Mr O'Donohue, Ms Patten, Mrs Peulich, #Mr Rich-Phillips, Mr Somyurek, Ms Springle and Ms Symes.

# participating members

### Legislative Council select committees

**Port of Melbourne Select Committee** — Mr Barber, Mr Mulino, Mr Ondarchie, Mr Purcell, Mr Rich-Phillips, Ms Shing and Ms Tierney.

### Joint committees

**Accountability and Oversight Committee** — (*Council*): Ms Bath, Mr Purcell and Ms Symes. (*Assembly*): Mr Angus, Mr Gidley, Mr Staikos and Ms Thomson.

**Dispute Resolution Committee** — (*Council*): Mr Bourman, Mr Dalidakis, Ms Dunn, Mr Jennings and Ms Wooldridge. (*Assembly*): Ms Allan, Mr Clark, Mr Merlino, Mr M. O'Brien, Mr Pakula, Ms Richardson and Mr Walsh

**Economic, Education, Jobs and Skills Committee** — (*Council*): Mr Bourman, Mr Elasmr and Mr Melhem. (*Assembly*): Mr Crisp, Mrs Fyffe, Mr Nardella and Ms Ryall.

**Electoral Matters Committee** — (*Council*): Ms Patten and Mr Somyurek. (*Assembly*): Ms Asher, Ms Blandthorn, Mr Dixon, Mr Northe and Ms Spence.

**Environment, Natural Resources and Regional Development Committee** — (*Council*): Mr Ramsay and Mr Young. (*Assembly*): Ms Halfpenny, Mr McCurdy, Mr Richardson, Mr Tilley and Ms Ward.

**Family and Community Development Committee** — (*Council*): Mr Finn. (*Assembly*): Ms Couzens, Mr Edbrooke, Ms Edwards, Ms Kealy and Ms McLeish.

**House Committee** — (*Council*): The President (*ex officio*), Mr Eideh, Ms Hartland, Ms Lovell, Mr Mulino and Mr Young. (*Assembly*): The Speaker (*ex officio*), Mr J. Bull, Mr Crisp, Mrs Fyffe, Mr Staikos, Ms Suleyman and Mr Thompson.

**Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission Committee** — (*Council*): Mr Ramsay and Ms Symes. (*Assembly*): Mr Hibbins, Mr D. O'Brien, Mr Richardson, Ms Thomson and Mr Wells.

**Law Reform, Road and Community Safety Committee** — (*Council*): Mr Eideh and Ms Patten. (*Assembly*): Mr Dixon, Mr Howard, Ms Suleyman, Mr Thompson and Mr Tilley.

**Public Accounts and Estimates Committee** — (*Council*): Ms Pennicuik and Ms Shing. (*Assembly*): Mr Dimopoulos, Mr Morris, Mr D. O'Brien, Mr Pearson, Mr T. Smith and Ms Ward.

**Scrutiny of Acts and Regulations Committee** — (*Council*): Ms Bath and Mr Dalla-Riva. (*Assembly*): Ms Blandthorn, Mr J. Bull, Mr Dimopoulos, Ms Kilkenny and Mr Pesutto.

### Heads of parliamentary departments

*Assembly* — Clerk of the Parliaments and Clerk of the Legislative Assembly: Mr R. W. Purdey

*Council* — Clerk of the Legislative Council: Mr A. Young

*Parliamentary Services* — Secretary: Mr P. Lochert

**MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**  
**FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT — FIRST SESSION**

**President:**

The Hon. B. N. ATKINSON

**Deputy President:**

Mr K. EIDEH

**Acting Presidents:**

Ms Dunn, Mr Elasmarr, Mr Finn, Mr Melhem, Mr Morris, Ms Patten, Mr Ramsay

**Leader of the Government:**

The Hon. G. JENNINGS

**Deputy Leader of the Government:**

The Hon. J. L. PULFORD

**Leader of the Opposition:**

The Hon. M. WOOLDRIDGE

**Deputy Leader of the Opposition:**

The Hon. G. K. RICH-PHILLIPS

**Leader of The Nationals:**

Mr L. B. O'SULLIVAN

**Leader of the Greens:**

Mr G. BARBER

Member	Region	Party	Member	Region	Party
Atkinson, Mr Bruce Norman	Eastern Metropolitan	LP	Mikakos, Ms Jenny	Northern Metropolitan	ALP
Barber, Mr Gregory John	Northern Metropolitan	Greens	Morris, Mr Joshua	Western Victoria	LP
Bath, Ms Melina <sup>2</sup>	Eastern Victoria	Nats	Mulino, Mr Daniel	Eastern Victoria	ALP
Bourman, Mr Jeffrey	Eastern Victoria	SFFP	O'Brien, Mr Daniel David <sup>1</sup>	Eastern Victoria	Nats
Carling-Jenkins, Dr Rachel	Western Metropolitan	DLP	O'Donohue, Mr Edward John	Eastern Victoria	LP
Crozier, Ms Georgina Mary	Southern Metropolitan	LP	Ondarchie, Mr Craig Philip	Northern Metropolitan	LP
Dalidakis, Mr Philip	Southern Metropolitan	ALP	O'Sullivan, Luke Bartholomew <sup>4</sup>	Northern Victoria	Nats
Dalla-Riva, Mr Richard Alex Gordon	Eastern Metropolitan	LP	Patten, Ms Fiona	Northern Metropolitan	ASP
Davis, Mr David McLean	Southern Metropolitan	LP	Pennicuik, Ms Susan Margaret	Southern Metropolitan	Greens
Drum, Mr Damian Kevin <sup>3</sup>	Northern Victoria	Nats	Peulich, Mrs Inga	South Eastern Metropolitan	LP
Dunn, Ms Samantha	Eastern Metropolitan	Greens	Pulford, Ms Jaala Lee	Western Victoria	ALP
Eideh, Mr Khalil M.	Western Metropolitan	ALP	Purcell, Mr James	Western Victoria	VILJ
Elasmarr, Mr Nazih	Northern Metropolitan	ALP	Ramsay, Mr Simon	Western Victoria	LP
Finn, Mr Bernard Thomas C.	Western Metropolitan	LP	Rich-Phillips, Mr Gordon Kenneth	South Eastern Metropolitan	LP
Fitzherbert, Ms Margaret	Southern Metropolitan	LP	Shing, Ms Harriet	Eastern Victoria	ALP
Hartland, Ms Colleen Mildred	Western Metropolitan	Greens	Somyurek, Mr Adem	South Eastern Metropolitan	ALP
Herbert, Mr Steven Ralph	Northern Victoria	ALP	Springle, Ms Nina	South Eastern Metropolitan	Greens
Jennings, Mr Gavin Wayne	South Eastern Metropolitan	ALP	Symes, Ms Jaelyn	Northern Victoria	ALP
Leane, Mr Shaun Leo	Eastern Metropolitan	ALP	Tierney, Ms Gayle Anne	Western Victoria	ALP
Lovell, Ms Wendy Ann	Northern Victoria	LP	Wooldridge, Ms Mary Louise Newling	Eastern Metropolitan	LP
Melhem, Mr Cesar	Western Metropolitan	ALP	Young, Mr Daniel	Northern Victoria	SFFP

<sup>2</sup> Appointed 15 April 2015

<sup>3</sup> Resigned 27 May 2016

<sup>1</sup> Resigned 25 February 2015

<sup>4</sup> Appointed 12 October 2016

**PARTY ABBREVIATIONS**

ALP — Labor Party; ASP — Australian Sex Party;  
DLP — Democratic Labour Party; Greens — Australian Greens;  
LP — Liberal Party; Nats — The Nationals;  
SFFP — Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party; VILJ — Vote 1 Local Jobs





# CONTENTS

---

## WRITTEN ADJOURNMENT RESPONSES

### TUESDAY, 22 NOVEMBER 2016

<i>Port Fairy adverse possession claim</i> .....	6399
<i>Casey City Council</i> .....	6399
<i>Bendigo Health allied services</i> .....	6400
<i>Doctors in Secondary Schools</i> .....	6401
<i>Living Libraries Infrastructure program</i> .....	6402
<i>Levee bank maintenance</i> .....	6403
<i>Tourism and major events strategy</i> .....	6403
<i>Great Ocean Road funding</i> .....	6404
<i>Ferry Creek power outage</i> .....	6404
<i>Bolton Street, Eltham</i> .....	6405
<i>Sunbury Road duplication</i> .....	6405
<i>Regional and rural roads</i> .....	6405, 6406
<i>Caulfield–Dandenong line elevated rail</i> .....	6405
<i>Crib Point Primary School</i> .....	6406
<i>AFL Women’s league</i> .....	6406
<i>Tullamarine Freeway</i> .....	6407
<i>Bus route 792</i> .....	6407
<i>Malmsbury Youth Justice Centre</i> .....	6408
<i>Early childhood education</i> .....	6408
<i>Sunbury rail services</i> .....	6409
<i>Foster carers</i> .....	6409

### WEDNESDAY, 23 NOVEMBER 2016

<i>Local government amalgamation</i> .....	6411
<i>Better Apartments reference group</i> .....	6411



**WRITTEN ADJOURNMENT RESPONSES**

*Responses have been incorporated in the form supplied by the departments on behalf of the appropriate ministers.*

**Tuesday, 22 November 2016**

**Port Fairy adverse possession claim**

**Raised with:** Premier  
**Raised by:** Mr Purcell  
**Raised on:** 11 February 2015

**REPLY:**

I thank the Member for bringing this matter to my attention.

I commend your ongoing advocacy to raise this important issue on behalf of your constituents.

In terms of an adverse possession claim there is a clear outline of how this is processed and what evidence is required as part of an application. This criteria is outlined in the Guide to Adverse Possession which can be found at: <http://www.dtpli.vic.gov.au/property-and-land-titles/land-titles/dealing-with-titles/adverse-possession>.

The Limitation of Actions Act 1958 outlines that land can't be claimed by adverse possession if they fall under the following categories:

- Crown land, including government roads
- land owned by the Public Transport Corporation or Victorian Rail Track
- land owned by a water authority (defined by the Water Act 1989)
- land owned by the Roads Corporation, VicRoads, or any of their predecessors
- land of which a council (as defined in the Local Government Act 1989) is the registered proprietor
- any part of common property affected by an owners corporation by an owner of a lot affected by that owners corporation.

It appears that the land in this case does not fall under these land categories and therefore, unfortunately, there is no ability for the State Government to intervene on this issue.

I applaud your enduring advocacy and tireless work on behalf of the Western Victoria region.

**Casey City Council**

**Raised with:** Minister for Local Government  
**Raised by:** Mrs Peulich  
**Raised on:** 23 June 2016

**REPLY:**

The circumstances outlined by the Ombudsman regarding Casey City Council's Special Charge Scheme for Market Lane were very troubling.

The Andrews Government is committed to ensuring all Victorian councils act with the utmost integrity and probity when making decisions that affect citizens — and has acted on both Ombudsman recommendations to government.

In her report into the matter, the Ombudsman concluded that Casey City Council appeared to have acted contrary to the Local Government Act 1989, including by failing to provide details of the right to object to affected owners for the Market Lane Special Charge Scheme. In these circumstances it was appropriate to appoint a municipal monitor to the Council.

I was committed to ensuring the Ombudsman's recommendations to Casey City Council were acted upon, and that the processes outlined in the report were not repeated — therefore I appointed Mr Bill Jaboor as Municipal Monitor to monitor the Council's processes referred to in the Ombudsman's report and the Council's response to the recommendations and provide a report to me.

The Monitor was required to support and provide assistance to the Council in improving the governance processes and practices identified in the Ombudsman's report, addressing the Ombudsman's concerns and recommendations, and ensure good governance and compliance in the future.

Mr Jaboor's report has been publicly released and can be accessed at: [www.delwp.vic.gov.au/local-government](http://www.delwp.vic.gov.au/local-government). His report outlines how the Ombudsman's recommendations and concerns identified in her report have been addressed by the Council. It also provides an assessment of the changes implemented by the Council on Mr Jaboor's recommendation, to ensure similar governance issues do not arise in future.

I welcome Mr Jaboor's report and the actions taken by Casey City Council to improve its practices in relation to this matter.

### **Bendigo Health allied services**

**Raised with:** Minister for Health

**Raised by:** Ms Lovell

**Raised on:** 31 August 2016

#### **REPLY:**

The North and East Towers were constructed in the 1950s and are the location from which dental, subacute and allied health services are run, as well as providing accommodation for administration staff.

The Government is continuing to work with Bendigo Hospital on possible options for the future use of the towers after patients move into the new Bendigo Hospital early next year.

Bendigo Health has, in the interim, implemented a range of practical fire risk mitigation measures to bring the buildings up to a level of fire safety comparable with buildings of a similar age.

The buildings have fire sprinklers fitted throughout. Both buildings also have functioning smoke and fire detection systems, fire hydrants and extinguishers are available and functional, smoke doors are fitted and working, and fire loads have been reduced through the removal of unnecessary material.

Evacuation drills are conducted regularly and increased maintenance including essential services maintenance is being performed on the buildings regularly.

Bendigo Health has assured the Government the towers are safe to occupy and that there is no risk to patients.

All bed-based patient services, currently run out of the Towers, will move to the new Bendigo Hospital in late January 2017.

If the opposition are genuinely concerned about the future of the towers they should explain why the former Liberal Government failed to adequately fund any shortfall.

### Doctors in Secondary Schools

**Raised with:** Minister for Education  
**Raised by:** Ms Tierney  
**Raised on:** 14 September 2016

**REPLY:**

I am informed as follows:

The first 20 Victorian Government secondary schools will be ready to deliver general practitioner (GP) services on their school premises from Term 1, 2017. A further 40 will roll out from Term 3, 2017 with the remaining 40 secondary schools to be delivered from Term 1, 2018.

There are 22 secondary schools in the Western Victorian Region who have been selected to participate in the Doctors in Secondary Schools program. Five of these will be commencing in the program from Term 1, 2017. A list is provided below.

Funding will allow for a GP to attend these schools up to one day a week to provide health support, advice and treatment, and for school co-ordination. Schools are not required to find their own GP. The Department of Education and Training is working with Victoria's six Primary Health Networks to identify and engage GPs to work with participating schools through local primary health care services. Schools participating in the program will be expected to form a strong and positive partnership with their identified local primary health care service in order to run the program.

GPs will work closely with the school program coordinator to provide a primary health care service on the school premises. All participating GPs will be required to undertake training in adolescent health that conforms to the standards of accreditation for continuing professional development set by the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners.

Comprehensive program and operational guidelines will be provided to GPs and school staff shortly.

As part of the Doctors in Secondary Schools program, the Andrews Labor Government will provide 100 schools with modern, fit-for-purpose GP consultation facilities on school grounds. This will be either a new, purpose-built relocatable building or a refurbished area in an existing, permanent facility. The consultation facilities will contain a consultation room, equipped and furnished for use by a GP, an office for the program coordinator, and a waiting room for students. The facilities are designed to support patient privacy and confidentiality, and include features to support visual and auditory privacy. The first relocatable buildings will be delivered to schools commencing in Term 1, 2017 in early December 2016.

An independent evaluation of the initiative will be conducted and the staggered implementation model will allow for lessons learned from the first 20 schools to inform operations at later schools.

**Western Region secondary schools in the first 20, commencing Term 1, 2017:**

- Wedderburn College
- Brauer Secondary College
- Portland Secondary College
- Ballarat Secondary College
- Mount Clear College

**Western Region secondary schools in the remaining 80, commencement date TBC:**

- Phoenix P-12 Community College
- Geelong High School
- Newcomb Secondary College
- North Geelong Secondary College
- Casterton Secondary College
- Horsham College
- Bacchus Marsh College
- Kurunjang Secondary College
- Melton Secondary College
- Camperdown College
- Colac Secondary College
- Lavers Hill P-12 College
- Ararat Secondary College
- Beaufort Secondary College
- Maryborough Education Centre
- St Arnaud Secondary College
- Heywood District Secondary College

**Living Libraries Infrastructure program**

**Raised with:** Minister for Local Government  
**Raised by:** Mr Melhem  
**Raised on:** 11 October 2016

**REPLY:**

The Andrews Labor Government recognises the importance of public libraries and I am pleased that this Government has delivered record high investment in library services with \$41.5 million provided this year in recurrent library funding across all library services. This is additional to the \$22.4 million provided over four years to extend the Living Libraries Infrastructure Program and the Premiers' Reading Challenge Book Fund.

The Living Libraries Infrastructure Program is designed to improve Victorian public library facilities and support the role of public libraries in strengthening communities and encouraging opportunities for community participation.

Three councils in the Western Metropolitan Region have received funding from recent funding rounds of the Living Libraries Infrastructure Program.

Wyndham City Council received \$750 000 from the 2013 funding round of the Living Libraries Infrastructure Program towards the new Julia Gillard Library Tarneit, which was officially opened on 3 February 2016. The library includes large children's and youth spaces, a tween space, an innovative co-working space, a community activity space, study rooms, dedicated IT spaces and a social reading area.

Hobsons Bay City Council received \$100 000 from the 2015 funding round towards the new Newport Library as part of the Newport Community Hub, which was officially opened on 2 September 2016. The library features a collection of 6000 items, a quiet study space, interactive technologies and a 24 hour collection kiosk for library reservations.

Brimbank City Council received \$33 700 from the 2015 funding round towards the St Albans Library refurbishment. This project will create more program and study space, and a more efficient layout, enabling the library to better meet the needs of the community.

For the Living Libraries Program 2016, \$4.5 million has been made available. Councils and regional library corporations are eligible to apply for a grant of up to \$750 000. Applications opened on Wednesday 28 September 2016 and close on Friday 16 December 2016. All applications will be assessed on merit and successful applicants will be announced in early 2017.

I encourage all Victorian councils and regional library corporations to apply for funding under the program.

### **Levee bank maintenance**

**Raised with:** Minister for Water  
**Raised by:** Ms Lovell  
**Raised on:** 11 October 2016

#### **REPLY:**

The Victorian Floodplain Management Strategy, which I released in April 2016, specifically addresses the issue of the role and responsibilities of agencies in the management of levees. Additionally, the government is rolling out regional floodplain management strategies in close consultation with communities.

### **Tourism and major events strategy**

**Raised with:** Minister for Tourism and Major Events  
**Raised by:** Mr Elasmr  
**Raised on:** 11 October 2016

#### **REPLY:**

I thank the Member for his question. What a fantastic and exciting match it was at Docklands on 11 October, with the Socceroos drawing 1-1 with Japan, and a captivated audience both at the ground and via television screens across the country.

Major and business events are important for Victoria. They provide not only economic benefits but also constant positioning and profile for Victoria nationally and internationally. They drive tourism, employment growth, industry development, business linkages, investment decisions and community outcomes for the benefit of the State. They also motivate Victorians to stay at home to attend major events rather than travel elsewhere and motivate interstate and international visitors to travel to Victoria.

Victoria's visitor economy contributes more than \$21 billion in Gross State Product each year and generates employment for more than 210 000 Victorians. Victoria's Visitor Economy Strategy aims to increase annual visitor spend to \$36.5 billion each year and the employment generated to more than 320 000 jobs.

Communities in the Northern Metropolitan region are well placed to benefit from major and business events held in Victoria. Branding associated with major and business events promotes Melbourne and Victoria, which encourages visitation and dispersal into regions such as the Northern Metropolitan region. There are also opportunities for interstate and intrastate visitors attending events to travel to and stay in the Northern Metropolitan region as part of their trip. Indeed, the Northern Metropolitan region itself includes key venues, including the Melbourne Cricket Ground, Flemington Racecourse and Melbourne Showgrounds.

There are opportunities for Victorian companies, including those in metropolitan Melbourne, to attend major and business events to promote their goods and services and develop networks. For example, Tim Pallas MP, Treasurer of Victoria hosted a reception at the 2016 World Cup Soccer Qualifier between Australia and Japan on Tuesday 11 October 2016. This Japan/Australia business networking reception was attended by 33 Japanese company representatives and 134 Victorian/Australian companies interested in furthering their business activities with Japan.

Given the significant benefits for Melbourne and Victoria as a whole, the Victorian Government is committed to attracting and retaining events to the State. The Government committed an additional \$80 million over four years to the Major Events Fund in the 2015–16 State Budget. We also committed \$210 million to Stage 2 development of the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre.

The 2016-17 Victorian Budget provides an additional \$9 million over two years to the Business Events Fund. This will allow Victoria to continue to be a world class destination for major and business events for the benefit of the entire State.

### **Great Ocean Road funding**

**Raised with:** Minister for Roads and Road Safety  
**Raised by:** Mr Ramsay  
**Raised on:** 11 October 2016

#### **REPLY:**

The Victorian Government recognises the importance of providing a safe and efficient road network and is committed to maintaining and improving road conditions in rural and regional areas. I note your support for funding improvements to the Great Ocean Road.

The State Government is currently reviewing and prioritising the list of proposed road projects announced by the Federal Government and we will be making an announcement regarding State contributions in the near future.

### **Ferny Creek power outage**

**Raised with:** Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change  
**Raised by:** Mr O'Donohue  
**Raised on:** 11 October 2016

#### **REPLY:**

The windstorm which occurred on the weekend of 9 October 2016 resulted in widespread power outages across Victoria. Extensive damage to poles and wires from the winds and falling trees, combined with the sheer scale of the event, meant that restoration times were extended with some customers experiencing prolonged power outages.

Victoria's emergency services received thousands of calls for assistance, with more than 2100 trees blown down and 1131 buildings damaged during the wind and storm event.

The AusNet Services distribution network was most affected, with almost 70 000 customers affected. AusNet Services noted that it had more than 250 line workers in the field each day following the event and that all available crews assisted with the repair work.

In relation to Ferny Creek, AusNet Services has advised my Department that work was required to remove trees from powerlines and repair a damaged transformer. I am also advised that AusNet Services had been in contact with your office in relation to this matter.

I have asked the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning to work with electricity distribution businesses and Emergency Management Victoria to consider lessons learnt from this event, especially how communication could be improved. Better communication and information provision can support planning and help those affected to manage their own circumstances better.



**Bolton Street, Eltham**

**Raised with:** Minister for Roads and Road Safety  
**Raised by:** Ms Dunn  
**Raised on:** 12 October 2016

**REPLY:**

The State Government has committed \$10.5 million (including \$300 000 development funding) for the upgrade of Bolton Street between Main Road and Bridge Street in Eltham. VicRoads, in consultation with the Banyule City Council, Nillumbik Shire Council and the local community, has commenced planning work and is committed to delivering the upgrade.

**Sunbury Road duplication**

**Raised with:** Minister for Roads and Road Safety  
**Raised by:** Mr Finn  
**Raised on:** 12 October 2016

**REPLY:**

VicRoads recently completed a detailed planning investigation for a link between Melbourne Airport and the future Outer Metropolitan Ring Road transport corridor, which included a bypass of Bulla.

The Minister for Planning has asked me to consider further options that address safety and congestion and future traffic demands for the Sunbury and Bulla communities.

VicRoads is currently undertaking that work.

**Regional and rural roads**

**Raised with:** Minister for Roads and Road Safety  
**Raised by:** Mr Purcell  
**Raised on:** 12 October 2016

**REPLY:**

The State Government has committed \$1 billion to upgrade and repair unsafe and congested roads and bridges in regional communities over the next eight years. VicRoads will deliver \$79.9 million for resurfacing and reconstruction work on 510 kilometres of road within western Victoria during 2016–2017.

The State Government has no intention of restructuring VicRoads current regional boundaries or areas of operation.

**Caulfield–Dandenong line elevated rail**

**Raised with:** Premier  
**Raised by:** Mr Davis  
**Raised on:** 12 October 2016

**REPLY:**

As the Member is aware, it has taken a Labor Government to take action on removing the nine dangerous and congested level crossings along the Cranbourne Pakenham Line.

The \$1.6 billion project will slash local traffic congestion, let us run more trains more often, and create 11 MCG's worth of new public open space.

A range of measures have been incorporated into the project as a result of community feedback, including escalators at the new stations, and noise walls along the structure.

The Community Open Space Expert Panel, chaired by the Chief Executive of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Professor Tim Entwisle, brings together experts from the Victorian Government Architect, Victoria Police, Bicycle Network Victoria, and the local community. They'll be working in consultation with the community on this unique opportunity to create and maintain this massive new open space.

All appropriate planning processes have been followed — something that the previous Liberal Government knew nothing about.

We are removing nine of Victoria's worst level crossings, rebuilding five stations, creating kilometres of new community open space, and we're listening to local residents while we get on with this essential work.

The Victorian Labor Government has already removed the first four of 50 dangerous and congested level crossings ahead of schedule, this is in stark contrast to the four years of inaction under the previous Liberal Government.

### **Crib Point Primary School**

**Raised with:** Minister for Veterans  
**Raised by:** Mr Mulino  
**Raised on:** 12 October 2016

#### **REPLY:**

I thank the Member for Eastern Victoria for his question and for reminding the Victorian Parliament of the importance of our veterans and of the men and women of the Australian Defence Force, and their families, whose service is so important for our community.

I am pleased to advise that through the Anzac Centenary Community Grant Program \$3000 in funding, as recommended by the Victorian Veterans Council, is being provided to Crib Point Primary School towards their 'Commemoration Walk'.

Passing the torch of remembrance to a younger generation is very important during this Anzac Centenary period.

### **Regional and rural roads**

**Raised with:** Minister for Roads and Road Safety  
**Raised by:** Mr Ramsay  
**Raised on:** 13 October 2016

#### **REPLY:**

The State Government has committed \$1 billion to upgrade and repair unsafe and congested roads and bridges in regional communities over the next eight years, and we are delivering on this commitment.

### **AFL Women's league**

**Raised with:** Minister for Sport  
**Raised by:** Ms Patten  
**Raised on:** 13 October 2016

#### **REPLY:**

As with any professional sport, the AFL is responsible for making decisions regarding payment for all of its players. The contracts that the women's league entered into are commercial contractual arrangements that the AFL has negotiated with the AFL Players' Association.

The Andrews Labor Government is committed to creating increased leadership and participation opportunities for women and girls in sport and active recreation in Victoria, in partnership with sporting organisations.

The Andrews Labor Government is encouraged by the AFL's work to date to increase participation by women and girls in sport.

### **Tullamarine Freeway**

**Raised with:** Minister for Roads and Road Safety  
**Raised by:** Mr Finn  
**Raised on:** 13 October 2016

#### **REPLY:**

The Andrews Government is committed to maintaining Melbourne's famous liveability by relieving congestion on our road network through a number of initiatives, including the CityLink Tulla Widening project, which will increase capacity, reduce travel times and improve safety on CityLink and the Tullamarine Freeway.

In a significant upgrade to the 24 kilometres from Melbourne Airport to Power Street, this project will add an extra lane in each direction.

The introduction of a new freeway management system will also improve traffic flow, using technology to identify and manage road incidents more quickly to minimise the impact on traffic. In addition, electronic ramp signals will make merging easier and reduce congestion around freeway ramps.

Upon completion, drivers will save 16 minutes in the morning peak period and 17 minutes in the afternoon peak on average, reducing transport costs for business and giving commuters more time to spend with their families.

The increased congestion you mention may be the result of roadworks associated with this project. Since works commenced in October 2015, drivers have been encouraged to seek alternate routes or methods of transport, such as the train or tram. Advice for drivers, including details of road closures and recommended detours, is published on the project's website at <<http://citylinktullawidening.vic.gov.au>>. Real-time travel information is also shared on the @VicRoads Twitter account, using the #ctwidening hashtag.

With airport passenger numbers expected to more than double by 2033, this project will make travel between the airport and the city smoother, safer and easier for Victorians and visitors from interstate or overseas.

The widening of CityLink and the Tullamarine Freeway is vital to keep Melbourne's motorists and freight moving into the future.

### **Bus route 792**

**Raised with:** Minister for Public Transport  
**Raised by:** Mrs Peulich  
**Raised on:** 25 October 2016

#### **REPLY:**

New bus Route 792 will provide an important direct link to Cranbourne Station. The route will travel through both Atlas Drive and Everlasting Boulevard, maximising access for residents and providing for the first time easy and direct access to public transport for these fast growing estates in Cranbourne West to allow residents to get to work, shopping and study.

There will be five new bus stops inside the estate, with stops on both Atlas Drive and Everlasting Boulevard. These new stops have been installed prior to the new route starting service on 13 November 2016. Details of these stops and the route timetable are available to the public on the Public Transport Victoria website (<https://www.ptv.vic.gov.au>) and Google Maps.

The new route delivers public transport access to Cranbourne West for the first time, delivering for a community that was neglected by the previous Liberal Government, which slashed funding for buses.

The new route is part of the Government's \$100 million Better Bus Networks program and will provide much-needed links and benefit to the community, with greater choice to get around.

### **Malmsbury Youth Justice Centre**

**Raised with:** Minister for Families and Children  
**Raised by:** Ms Crozier  
**Raised on:** 25 October 2016

#### **REPLY:**

My office facilitated the Shadow Minister for Families and Children visiting both Youth Justice Precincts earlier this year.

On 29 January Ms Crozier and her adviser visited Parkville Youth Justice Precinct, and on 16 February visited Malmsbury Youth Justice Precinct.

At that time the Shadow Minister was given a comprehensive briefing by Mr Ian Lanyon Director Secure Services and a tour of the facilities.

My office will contact the member regarding her request for a further visit.

### **Early childhood education**

**Raised with:** Minister for Families and Children  
**Raised by:** Mr Eideh  
**Raised on:** 26 October 2016

#### **REPLY:**

I am informed as follows:

The Victorian Government has made a commitment to establish Victoria as the Education State. Giving young Victorians the best start in life is at the heart of the Education State. All Victorian children, regardless of their background and where they live, should have access to high quality services and the supports they need to succeed.

I recently approved funding for innovative projects in partnership with Moonee Valley, Moreland and Banyule City Councils to improve the engagement of culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) children, including recently arrived migrants and refugees, in kindergarten. The three councils will be supported by the Murdoch Children's Research Institute to implement and assess local projects that will identify and address barriers to participation. Insights from these projects, including successful strategies for engaging CALD families, will be shared with other local councils and service providers.

In addition to these projects, the Government provides a range of other services and supports for children and families from CALD backgrounds to engage in key universal services. These include:

- a new early years program to be delivered by Foundation House that will involve intensive work with refugee families and early childhood service providers in areas of high refugee settlement
- kindergarten brochures translated into the top eleven community languages
- Transition to School resources translated into 32 community languages
- an online resource for early childhood educators and school teachers to support children and families with English as an Additional Language to make a successful transition to school

- funding for FKA Children’s Services to deliver a bilingual and bicultural program to standalone kindergartens to support CALD children settle into a kindergarten program
- the reframed Best Start program that now explicitly identifies newly arrived refugees and migrants as a key target group for supporting to access kindergarten and maternal and child health services
- parent tip sheets for Maternal and Child Health nurses to use with families about key health promotion messages, translated into a range of community languages
- funded bilingual workers for 15 Supported Playgroup service providers across Victoria
- access to telephone, video and on-site interpreting services to support the delivery of early childhood services to children and families.

I thank the member for his long standing commitment to helping children and families in the Western Metropolitan Region.

### **Sunbury rail services**

**Raised with:** Minister for Public Transport  
**Raised by:** Mr Finn  
**Raised on:** 26 October 2016

#### **REPLY:**

Bernie Finn and the Liberal opposition have no public transport agenda and are trying to create controversy where this is none. We have no plans to remove services from Sunbury.

Bernie Finn and the former Liberal Government didn’t start a single major public transport project, order any regional carriages for two years and ripped \$120 million out of V/Line.

We’ve already delivered more than 80 extra services to Sunbury, and V/Line trains will continue stopping there in the future.

We’ve also re-instated and increased funding to V/Line, ordered 48 new carriages and are getting on with delivering the Metro Tunnel, which will provide more services and high-capacity trains to Sunbury.

### **Foster carers**

**Raised with:** Minister for Families and Children  
**Raised by:** Ms Crozier  
**Raised on:** 10 November 2016

#### **REPLY:**

I am aware of the matters raised by the Member for Southern Metropolitan Region and I can assure you that my department has been in contact with these carers to discuss their circumstances.

I am mindful of the need to respect the privacy of both the children and the carers involved who the member has chosen to name.

I am advised that all available allowances are in place to support the continued care of these children and I thank this family for their continued dedication and support to the children in their care.

This government is committed to supporting our carers, providing a \$32 million funding boost in the 2015-16 Victorian Budget towards improving financial support for carers. More recently, I announced a package of \$19.2 million for funding support and training for carers.



**WRITTEN ADJOURNMENT RESPONSES**

*Responses have been incorporated in the form supplied by the departments on behalf of the appropriate ministers.*

**Wednesday, 23 November 2016**

**Local government amalgamation**

**Raised with:** Minister for Local Government  
**Raised by:** Ms Dunn  
**Raised on:** 13 September 2016

**REPLY:**

I want to make it clear that the Government is not in support of compulsory amalgamation of councils. As is public knowledge, the scope of the review of the Local Government Act 1989 does not cover council amalgamations.

The review is considering all aspects of the current Act with a view to more accurately and consistently reflect policy intent and improve clarity. It will not include consideration of any changes to existing external boundaries of Victorian municipalities.

In fact, the Government continues to work actively to support a strong local government sector, in particular rural councils, to protect their ongoing sustainability through innovation and collaborative initiatives.

The Government will continue to work with and listen to the community in relation to local government matters.

**Better Apartments reference group**

**Raised with:** Minister for Planning  
**Raised by:** Mr Davis  
**Raised on:** 25 October 2016

**REPLY:**

Since the release of the Better Apartments discussion paper in May 2015, there has been an extensive engagement and consultation with the community, local government, and industry groups. This includes two online surveys, interviews with stakeholders, information sessions and one-on-one meetings.

The Draft Better Apartments Standards were released in August of 2016, the first in a suite of tools being developed to support this initiative. Over 250 submissions were received in addition to a survey where participants were able to provide their level of satisfaction and open-ended feedback on a standard by standard basis. Many detailed submissions provided alternative solutions and architectural interpretation of the standards.

After the submissions were analysed, practical testing of the Draft Better Apartments Design Standards with industry experts was conducted over a series of interdisciplinary workshops. The technical experts were from a range of disciplines including architecture, acoustic engineering, environmental science and planning.

The workshops identified areas for further refinement which have been adjusted where appropriate. These changes were presented at the Better Apartments Reference Group & Local Government Working Group meeting on 7 November 2016.

I have confidence, given the duration of the consultation process over the last 16 months and diversity of expertise involved, that the best long term outcomes for the community and future liveability of Melbourne are being delivered through the suite of Better Apartments tools including standards, guidelines and training.